

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 GENEVA 05353 011114Z
ACTION SS-25

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R 301805Z JUN 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8766
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
MBFR VIENNA 119
USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T GENEVA 5353

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y F O R T E X T

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM MBFR NATO
SUBJ: DISCUSSION WITH SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE ON MBFR

1. SUMMARY: DURING MEETING ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES WITH
SOVIET REPS (REPORTED SEPTTEL) SLOSS QUERIED SOVIET AMB
ISSRAELYAN ON GENERAL VOSIT ATTITUDE TOWARD MBFR, RECEIVING
STANDARD SOVIET RESPONSE. END SUMMARY

2. SLOSS OPENED THE MEETING BY INDICATING HE WANTED TO
MAKE A BRIEF POINT ON MBFR BUT NOT GET INTO DETAILS ON
THIS SUBJECT. HE NOTED THAT DURING MOSCOW TALKS IN MARCH
THAT US REPS HAD RECEIVED THE IMPRESSION FROM A BRIEF
EXCHANGE WITH GROMYKO THAT THE LATTER SAW NO GREAT URGENCY
IN MBFR TALKS, AND THOUGHT THEY MIGHT CONTINUE FOR SOME
YEARS. SLOSS TOLD ISSRAELYAN THAT THIS STATEMENT HAD
MADE CONSIDERABLE IMPRESSION AT HIGH LEVELS IN
WASHINGTON. ISSRAELYAN DENIED THAT SOVIETS LACKED ANY
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SENSE OF URGENCY IN VIENNA TALKS, AND SAID EASTERN SIDE
CONTINUALLY SEARCHED FOR MOVEMENT. HE REFERRED TO THE
FACT THAT THEY CONTINUED TO MAKE NEW PROPOSALS ALBEIT
MODEST ONES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THEIR OVERALL
APPROACH. HE CITED AS EXAMPLE PROPOSAL FOR DIS-
AGGREGATION OF DATA BY COUNTRY. SLOSS REMINDED
ISSRAELYAN THAT WESTERN SIDE HAD ALSO MADE A PROPOSAL FOR

TABLING OF US AND SOVIET DATA AND SAID WE WERE NOW SEEKING
AN ALTERNATE APPROACH WHICH WOULD NOT PREJUDICE THE POSITION
OF EITHER SIDE.

3. ISSRAELYAN ALSO CLAIMED THAT SOVIET LEADERSHIP HAD
MADE EXTENSIVE MENTION OF MBFR IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS,
WHILE US LEADERSHIP HAD NOT. SLOSS ACKNOWLEDGED THIS
BUT SAID THAT NEVERTHELESS PRIVATE STATEMENT BY SOVIET
FORMIN TO US SECRETARY OF STATE HAD TO BE GIVEN MORE
WEIGHT AND INDEED HAD BEEN TAKEN SERIOUSLY IN WASHINGTON.
IF WASHINGTON IMPRESSION WAS IN ERROR, SOVIETS MIGHT
WISH TO CORRECT IT. ISSRAELYAN RESPONDED THAT SOVIETS
DEFINITELY WERE INTERESTED IN PROGRESS ON MBFR AND
DID NOT THINK IT NECESSARILY HAD TO AWAIT OUTCOME
SALT II. SLOSS SAID THIS WAS ALSO US VIEW AND THAT HE
WOULD REPORT ISSRAELYAN COMMENTS TO WASHINGTON.

4. COMMENT: ISSRAELYAN APPEARED UNAWARE OF
GROMYKO'S STATEMENT. HIS REACTION WAS TO BE EXPECTED.
ALL OF HIS COMMENTS WERE DESIGNED TO PUT EASTERN
POSITION IN MOST FAVORABLE LIGHT AND TO PLACE THE
ONUS FOR SLOW PROGRESS ON THE WEST. HOWEVER, HE MADE
HIS POINTS IN UNEMOTIONAL FASHION AND DID NOT SEEM
ANXIOUS TO GET INTO DETAILS ON MBFR. SORENSON

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